

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASUNCI 00512 022153Z

70

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 /046 W

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O 022124Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6651

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 00512

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, PA

SUBJ: CIVAIR: BRANIFF AIRLINES SCHEDULES/PARAGUAY

REF: STATE 21185

1. IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT REFTEL I CONTACTED INTERIM FONMIN NOGUES AND BRIEFED HIM FULLY ON US POSITION CONCERNING THE BRANIFF REQUEST. NOGUES PROMISED TO BE HELPFUL. I ALSO MET WITH AND DISCUSSED ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM WITH MR. SOUTH AND OTHER BRANIFF OFFICIALS.

2. ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, MR. SOUTH INFORMED ME THAT, BASED ON HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH PARAGUAYAN AUTHORITIES, AN ORAL AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED TO PERMIT THE NEW FREQUENCIES. HE SAID THAT ONLY PROCEDURAL FORMALITY REMAINING WAS APPROVAL BY THE PARAGUAYAN AVIATION BOARD.

3. VARIOUS PROBLEMS HAVE APPARENTLY PREVENTED THE AVIATION BOARD FROM MEETING AND AS OF 1800 HRS LOCAL TIME TODAY, FEBRUARY 2, THE BOARD HAD NOT YET MET AND THUS FORMAL APPROVAL HAS NOT BEEN GRANTED.

4. DESPITE FACT THAT FORMAL APPROVAL HAD NOT BEEN GRANTED, BRANIFF'S FLIGHT ARRIVED ON NEW SCHEDULE BUT AS OF NOW HAS BEEN REFUSED PERMISSION TO DEPART.

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PAGE 02 ASUNCI 00512 022153Z

I AM REMAINING IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH BOTH PARAGUAYAN

AUTHORITIES AND BRANIFF OFFICIALS. MR. SOUTH IS CONTINUING ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE WHAT APPEARS TO BE A BUREAUCRATIC IMPASSE TO ASSURE AIRCRAFT'S DEPARTURE TONIGHT SCHEDULED FOR 2115 LOCAL TIME.

5. WILL
KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.
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Message Attributes

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